

<b>1999 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE PREPARATION</b>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DRAFT</b></p>	FCC IWG-2 AUTHOR: A. Roytblat DATE : April 16, 1998
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**ISSUE:** Allocation below 1 GHz to NGSO MSS downlinks at 405-406 MHz.

**WRC-99 AGENDA ITEM:** Agenda item 1.11 invites Administrations to consider constraints on existing allocations and additional allocations on a worldwide basis for the non-GSO/MSS below 1 GHz in accordance with Resolution 214 (Rev. WRC-97), Resolution 219 (WRC-97) (previously COM5-25) and Resolution 728 (WRC-97) (previously COM5-14).

The studies invited by Resolution 219 (WRC-97) include: assessment of current and future MetAids spectrum requirements in the 401-406 MHz band, taking into account the requirements of the earth-exploration satellite and the meteorological-satellite service in the band 401-403 MHz (resolves to invite the ITU-R 1); consider the possible transition of the MetAids service from the band 405 - 406 MHz (resolves to invite the ITU-R 2); and consider a possible transition plan and a date by which MetAids could migrate from 405 - 406 MHz and MSS operations could commence (resolves to invite the ITU-R 3) and study the impact of unwanted emissions on the Cospas-Sarsat system in the band 406-406.1 MHz and the radio astronomy service in the band 406.1-410 MHz (resolves to invite the ITU-R 4).

**BACKGROUND:** From the outset of WRC-97, the WMO opposed this allocation strenuously and had aligned many of its 100+ member administrations to do the same. The first goal was to keep the proposal from being defeated upon introduction. The U.S. team, along with allies such as Canada, Indonesia and later CITEL and some administrations in Africa were successful in keeping the proposal alive. Later, the U.S. lead the effort to engage the WMO in meaningful dialogue to discuss the possibility of making available the 405-406 MHz by transitioning radiosondes out in an agreeable timeframe. At the heart of this debate is the cost associated with doing so. For this issue, the remainder of the conference was spent debating with the WMO language for a resolution to study the possibility of allocating the 405-406 MHz band at WRC-99; Res. COM5-25 (WRC-97). It was significant that the WMO relinquished its initial hard position to participate in drafting this resolution.

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Allocation to MSS in the 405-406 MHz band has been extensively studied. NVNG MSS systems are now being implemented in the limited available spectrum. Additional downlink spectrum is urgently required to accommodate existing US licensed NVNG MSS systems.

**PRELIMINARY VIEW:** US should pursue an allocation in the NVNG MSS in the 405-406 MHz band, pending the results of ITU-R studies mentioned above. A possible transition plan and a date by which MetAids could migrate from 405-406 MHz and NVNG MSS operations could commence are yet to be established. In order to protect SARSAT (406-406.1 MHz) and Radio Astronomy (406.1-410 MHz) bands from NVNG MSS out-of-band emissions, a 30 to 50 KHz guard band near the upper band edge may be required.